

What is claimed is:

1. An image retouching method comprising:

a detecting step of detecting a local defect in an original image and distinguishing the type of the defect on the basis of image data representing the original image;

a displaying step of displaying the defect detected at the detecting step with a mark corresponding to the type of the defect and receiving a correction to an inaccuracy in the detection of the defect displayed; and

a retouching step of retouching the image data representing the original image according to the type of the defect of which any detection inaccuracy is corrected.

2. The image retouching method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step detects a defect in a facial part in the original image.

3. The image retouching method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step detects a defect in an eye in the original image.

4. An image retouching apparatus comprising:

a detecting section that detects a local defect in an original image and distinguishes the type of the defect on the basis of image data representing the original image;

a display section that displays the defect detected at the detecting step with a mark corresponding to the type of

the defect and receives a correction to an in accuracy in the detection of the defect displayed; and

a retouching section that retouches the image data representing the original image according to the type of the defect of which any detection inaccuracy is corrected.

5. An image retouching program storage medium storing an image retouching program comprising:

a detecting section that detects a local defect in an original image and distinguishes the type of the defect on the basis of image data representing the original image;

a display section that displays the defect detected at the detecting step with a mark corresponding to the type of the defect and receives a correction to an in accuracy in the detection of the defect displayed; and

a retouching section that retouches the image data representing the original image according to the type of the defect of which any detection inaccuracy is corrected.

6. An image correcting method for detecting and correcting a particular defect in an eye in an image on the basis of image data representing the image, comprising:

a preprocessing step of narrowing down at least one of a set of images represented by the image data and a set of regions in one of the images to obtain an image or a region that meets a predetermined condition indicating a possible presence of a defect; and

a correcting step of detecting and correcting the defect in the image or region obtained at the preprocessing step on the basis of the image.

7. The image correcting method according to claim 6, wherein the image data representing a photograph has shooting information obtained during shooting and attached to the image data; and

the preprocessing step performs preprocessing according to the shooting information attached to the image data.

8. The image correcting method according to claim 6, wherein the preprocessing step performs preprocessing on the basis of scene analysis of the image represented by the image data.

9. An image correcting apparatus for detecting and correcting a particular defect in an eye in an image on the basis of image data representing the image, comprising:

a preprocessing section that narrows down at least one of a set of images represented by the image data and a set of regions in one of the images to obtain an image or a region that meets a predetermined condition indicating a possible presence of a defect; and

a correcting section that detects and corrects the defect in the image or region obtained at the preprocessing step on the basis of the image.

10. An image correcting program storage medium storing an image correcting program for detecting and correcting a particular defect in an eye in an image on the basis of image data representing the image, the program comprising:

a preprocessing section that narrows down at least one of a set of images represented by the image data and a set of regions in one of the images to obtain an image or a region that meets a predetermined condition indicating a possible presence of a defect; and

a correcting section that detects and corrects the defect in the image or region obtained at the preprocessing step on the basis of the image.

11. An eye detecting and correcting method for detecting an eye in an image on the basis of image data representing the image and, if the eye contains a defect of a predetermined type, correcting the defect, comprising:

a detecting step of detecting an eye in the image and the appearance of the eye on the basis of the image data; and

a correcting step of correcting, if a plurality of eyes are detected at the detecting step and any of the plurality of eyes contains the defect, the eye containing the defect with reference to the appearance of the other eyes.

12. The eye detecting and correcting method according to claim 11, wherein the correcting step corrects the eye with

reference to the appearance of the eye pairing up with the eye containing the defect.

13. The eye detecting and correcting method according to claim 11, wherein the correcting step corrects the eye with reference to the appearance of the eyes of a person other than the person with the eye containing the defect.

14. An eye detecting and correcting apparatus for detecting an eye in an image on the basis of image data representing the image and, if the eye contains a defect of a predetermined type, correcting the defect, comprising:

- a detecting section that detects an eye in the image and the appearance of the eye on the basis of the image data; and

- a correcting section that, if a plurality of eyes are detected at the detecting step and any of the plurality of eyes contains the defect, corrects the eye containing the defect with reference to the appearance of the other eyes.

15. An eye detecting and correcting program storage medium storing an eye detecting and correcting program for detecting an eye in an image on the basis of image data representing the image and, if the eye contains a defect of a predetermined type, correcting the defect, the program comprising:

- a detecting section that detects an eye in the image and the appearance of the eye on the basis of the image data; and

a correcting section that, if a plurality of eyes are detected at the detecting step and any of the plurality of eyes contains the defect, corrects the eye containing the defect with reference to the appearance of the other eyes.